

The Youth Entrepreneurship Academy (YEA) is a unique program for Portsmouth Public School youth developed by Visions of Truth Community Development Corporation (VOTCDC), a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.

YEA's curriculum is based on a solid model which has a proven track record of success in changing the attitudes and career aspirations of middle and high school students.



Entrepreneurship is not only about establishing and running a business, it is a way of shaping one's life and envisioning the future. With that in mind, the Youth Entrepreneurship Academy was developed to fulfill the following mission:

Provide an educational experience to students throughout the City of Portsmouth, Virginia to increase the number of vulnerable young people succeeding in high school, postsecondary education and training, and the labor market; decrease disparities along key indicators for racial minorities, low income, foster and court involved youth.

**PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

Here's a sample of the topics that will be covered in the Youth Entrepreneurship Academy:

- Getting Ready for Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneur? Who, Me? YEA You!
- Getting Ready for Entrepreneurship: When Opportunity Knocks!
- Getting Ready for Entrepreneurship: Business Ideas for All Communities
- Selling Your Idea
- Start Up Cash
- Open for Business
- Types of Businesses
- Where to Get Help
- Bookkeeping: Breaking Even, Profit or Loss?
- Know the Rules of the Game
- Minding Your Business
- You Can Make It Happen-YEA! You: The Business Plan

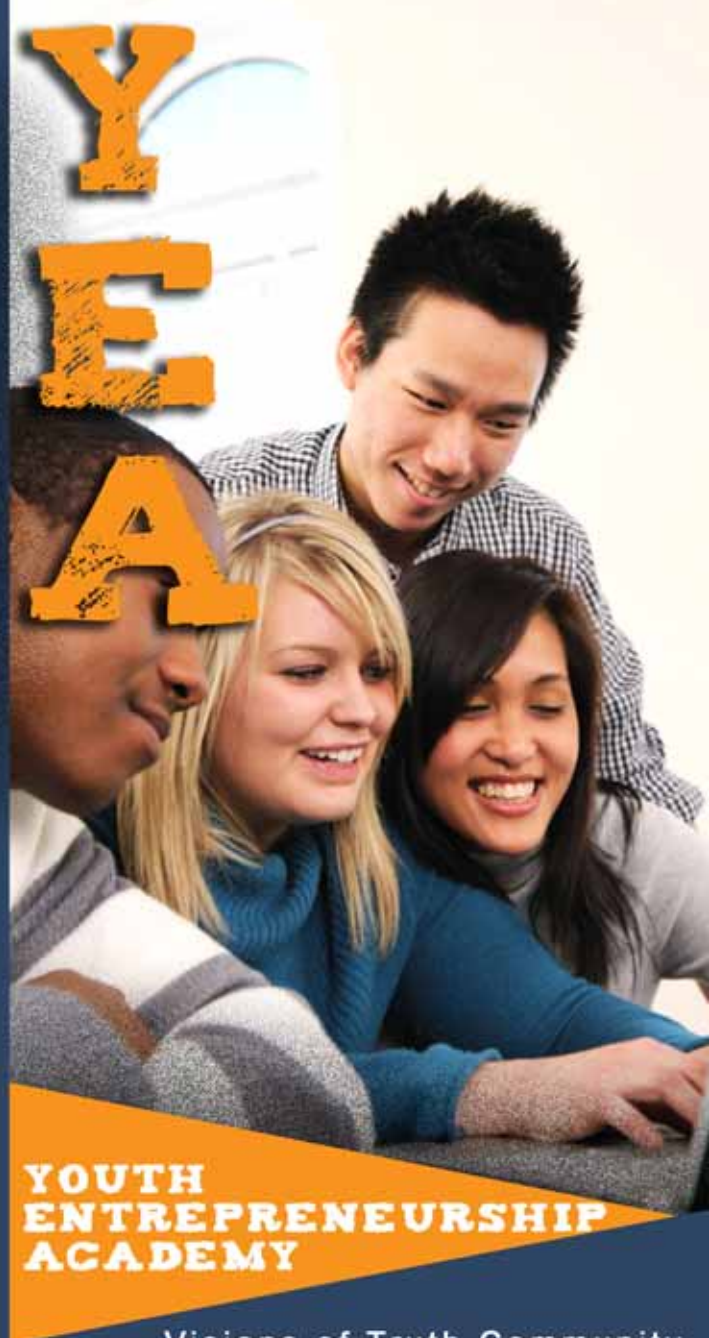
**JOB READINESS:**

- Your Job Search and Job Resources
- Explore Job Applications and Create Yours
- Resumes, Cover Letters, and References
- Preparing for Job Interviews
- Interview Success and Follow Up
- Managing a Budget
- Keeping and Succeeding in Your Job
- On-the-job Etiquette
- Success with Co-workers and Bosses

YEA works in concert with the business community to make sure middle and high school students are exposed to the workplace and have opportunities to acquire the skills they need to succeed beyond school.

**Contact:**

For more information or to enroll in the Youth Entrepreneurship Academy, please call Margaret DePena at (757) 967-9664, Monday through Friday, between 9 am. - 5 p.m. or send an email to [mdepena@votcdc.org](mailto:mdepena@votcdc.org).



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VOTCDC is passionate about providing non-traditional educational opportunities in interactive ways that engage and challenge youth, while reinforcing learning. The Youth Entrepreneurship Academy provides the positive programmatic tools needed to expose students to and guide them through the disciplines, values and business acumen needed to help put them on the path to success.



## HERE'S HOW THE YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY WORKS

The Youth Entrepreneurship Academy is a free program available to students in grades 7-12. The program offers coursework in math, English/language arts, science and social studies, all of which are carefully aligned with Virginia state standards to ensure that all students receive rigorous instruction that will result in academic achievement.

In addition to its core academic program, YEA offers entrepreneurship education utilizing a national curriculum which has proven effective for more than 280,000 young people across the country. The unique features of YEA include:

- Services available afterschool and during the day.
- Strict code of conduct and discipline procedures
- Emphasis on the importance of academic skills (reading, writing, research, math, and computer knowledge) through hands-on exercises such as writing a business plan, conducting market research, balancing books, and creating an inventory database.
- Weekly academic assessments and frequent responsive adjustments to individual lesson plans
- Presentations by local entrepreneurs and businesspeople from a variety of fields who will speak about how they got started and how they run their businesses.
- Cooperative partnerships with area businesses that create job shadowing and externship opportunities for youth. In job shadowing, a youth follows an adult on the job for a day. In an externship youth spend a week working at a job site.

Coupled with a rigorous academic program and an entrepreneurial focus, YEA participants will complete the Youth Entrepreneurship Academy with a business/life plan and that will enable them to return to their communities and become positive and progressive citizens with entrepreneurial spirits or technical skills.

## RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The Youth Entrepreneurship Academy provides participants with a wealth of information, access to resources and state-of-the art technology that enables them to conduct on-line job searches, create resumes and explore job readiness skills through the Skills Tutor software.

The overarching goal of YEA is to ensure that students learn at high levels, demonstrate level mastery in the core subjects, prepare and present a business plan, and all graduates will be prepared for and accepted into college or job training programs.

